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DDI-1379-69

27 May 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Review of Agency's Handling of Briefing Requests from Academic Groups and Recommendations for Policies and Procedures

REFERENCE : Memorandum for the DD/I from the Executive Director-Comptroller; Subject: Handling of Briefing Requests from Academic Groups, Dated 12 February 1969

1. The referenced memorandum asked the DD/I to review the problem of the Agency's handling of briefing requests from academic groups and, after consulting with other interested components, to recommend the action necessary to establish clear and effective Agency policies and procedures.

2. In response to your request, I convened a study group consisting of representatives of the DD/S, DD/S&T, DD/P, the Office of Personnel, the Office of Training, the Domestic Contact Service, and the Special Assistant to the Director. We have now had three meetings during which we probed all aspects of the problem, and we have considered and rejected four separate redrafts of the relevant regulation, [REDACTED]

3. That regulation assigns responsibility for handling requests for speakers and for selecting speakers to the Office of Training. For a variety of reasons the regulation is often bypassed. The thrust of my effort in the study group has been to divest OTR of responsibility for the handling of academic groups and assign it to the DD/I. In addition, I sought to underline special DD/I interest in lectures to all kinds of groups on matters of substantive intelligence. An effort to revise and clarify [REDACTED]

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eighteen months ago failed to achieve DD/I coordination on the latter point. My hope, now proven to be a fatuous one, was to deliver to you a brief report with recommendations and a coordinated, revised [redacted]

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4. It is now apparent that a draft regulation which takes from the Office of Training responsibility for managing briefings and the provision of speakers is acceptable neither to the Director of Training nor to the Deputy Director for Support. OTR holds that responsibilities assigned to that Office under existing regulations have been capably handled, and that it is uniquely qualified by experience and its "neutral" position and by the talents of its professional briefers and teachers to conduct or to arrange briefings and lectures on the Agency to all types of groups and audiences. The position of the Deputy Director for Support is that whatever arrangement is made for handling such activities, responsibility for management of them should be centered in one office, and that OTR is well-suited to the task.

5. There are points to be made on both sides of the questions which divide us from OTR and the DD/S. For example, there is a very substantial amount of bookkeeping and low-level logistical work involved in managing briefing programs which OTR has the manpower and, presumably, the capability to handle. A special program of briefings for academic groups under a new policy of receptivity to requests would probably develop in two or three years into a sizeable operation which could prove excessively time-consuming to DD/I officers. On the other hand, I still doubt that OTR has any unique capability to select speakers for all occasions and groups, or to achieve the kind of personal rapport which is so essential in dealing with current college groups. On another point, the DD/S position that the account should be managed by one office has obvious merit. Indeed the decentralization and management of briefings and lectures which has developed through useage and in spite of the existing regulation is one of the main weaknesses in the current situation. It seems to me that no component other than OTR should want to be burdened with the total briefing program covered in [redacted]

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6. Of course there are other lines that could be taken. If one were to insist that handling the academic groups become a DD/I program, coordination would have to be handled at a level higher than mine. Also, matters might be permitted to continue as they are, i.e., the Director, Executive Director, and DD/I siphon off incoming requests from academic and other groups which they want to handle personally or feel might best be handled at that level, and pass the rest to OTR.

7. I believe that the DD/I's interests and the interests of the Agency might best be served by retaining OTR responsibility for the general management, record keeping, and logistics for briefings including academic groups. However, responsibility for selecting speakers and developing programs for academic groups could be shared with the DD/I in recognition of the special relationship existing and being built up by the DD/I with the academic community. Also a new regulation could recognize the DD/I's special interest in briefings or lectures that concern questions of substantive intelligence, regardless of the nature of the group. I believe a regulation along this line can be coordinated.

8. Although the above represents less change than I had hoped for, it still represents progress on four points.

a. First, we have agreed that the Agency should have an explicitly stated policy of receptivity to requests from academic groups for lectures on the Agency. It did not have that before.

b. Second, we have also agreed to eliminate the provision in the present regulation requiring speakers to lecture from the collection of previously prepared texts on file in the Office of the Special Assistant to the Director.

c. Third, there appears to be no insurmountable problem in recognizing the DD/I's special interest in lectures which involve substantive intelligence questions.

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d. And finally, the regulation would recognize a special relationship between the Directorate of Intelligence and the academic community and bring the DD/I into a key position with respect to recommending or approving speakers for academic groups without burdening the Directorate with the nuts and bolts of a program that could become very nutty and bolty.

9. Attached is a report on the general subject, drafted for your submission to the Executive Director-Comptroller, and a draft regulation along the lines discussed above. Both have been considered by the committee named in Annex D, and the draft regulation has been coordinated with that committee.



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Coordinator for Academic Relations

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